regard to the private power plants which are there, I am pleased to inform the House that the Neyveli TPS-Zero Unit has completed all its formalities, counter-guarantee projects. It is going in for a financial closure. Its constructions is expected to start by the 1st of April. With regard to the nine projects which have been mentioned, I am pleased to inform you that out of them, we are monitoring six private sector projects in very great detail. And they are quite advanced. I believe that these projects will come in because the TNEB is one of the financially viable, in fact, successful ventures of electricity boards. It has a 5.9 per cent ROR which is much higher than most other electricity boards, including Maharashtra. I hope Salveji will not mind. Sir, actually, they received Rs. 1200 crore subsidy from the state Government directly as cash subvention from the Budget. Therefore, even though they give free power to the agriculturists, they are functioning in a manner which all of us must appreciate. This is one of the reasons why I expect the private sector projects in Tamil Nadu to really fructify and come into operation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Now, the Prime Minister.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

पत्तनों पर आयातित यूरिया तथा उर्वरकों की सम्भलाई में पेश आ रही समस्याएं

*122. श्री नरेश यादव: क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हमारे पत्तनों पर आयातित यूरिया तथा अन्य उर्वरकों की सम्भलाई में समस्याएं पेश आ रही हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में स्थिति का आकलन किया है;

(ग) हाल ही में आयातित यूरिया तथा अन्य उर्वरकों के संबंध में सरकार को पेश आ रही समस्याओं का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार के पास आयातित उर्वरकों की सम्भलाई में पेश आ रही समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए नीतियां बनाने की कोई योजनाएं है?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री तथा जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एम॰ कार्त्ती दुरई): (क) जी हां।

(ख) उर्वरकों का आयात मौसमी होता है। यूरिया एवं डी ए पी जैसे उर्वरक ढोने वाले जलयानों को बिना बारी प्राथमिकता के आधार पर बर्थ दी जाती है। तथापि, यदि कुछ पत्तनों पर कभी-कभी ऐसे कई जलयान एक साथ पहुंचते हैं तो बर्थों के अभाव के कारण उन्हें प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती है क्योंकि आयातकर्ता पत्तनों का चयन अपनी वाणिज्यिक सुविधाओं के अनुसार करते हैं।

(ग) विशाखापत्तनम पत्तन पर अभी हाल में एक साथ कई जलयानों के पहुंचने के परिणामस्वरूप रेल द्वारा कार्गों की निकासी में समस्या आई। तथापि, आयातित उर्वरकों की उतराई, बोरों में भराई और तुलाई के लिए तत्काल कार्रवाई की गई है।

(घ) अधिकांश समस्याएं प्रचालन से संबंधित हैं। पत्तनों ने कार्गों की तेजी से उतराई और निकासी के लिए अपनी सुविधाओं को उन्नत बनाने के उपाय किए है। सरकार ने नामांकन आधार पर महापत्तनों में अपनी स्वयं की सुविधाएं स्थापित करने के लिए आबद्ध प्रयोक्ताओं को अनुमति देने का नीतिगत निर्णय लिया है।

Revival of crop loans to the farmers of the North Eastern States

*125. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the crop loan/credit system has been stopped in the North Eastern States;

(b) the amount of loan overdues in the North East region, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to revive the crop loans to the farmers of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) It is not

true that the crop loan credit system has been stopped in the North-Eastern Region. All the commercial banks, co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the North-Eastern States except Manipur State Co-operative Bank Ltd. have been providing crop loans to the farmers. Details of the State-wise agricultural loans provided by the commercial banks, co-operative banks and RRBs in North-Eastern Region during the last three years are given in the *Statement*-I, II *and* II. (*See* below) The State-wise loan overdues of commercial banks, co-operative banks and RRBs are given in the *Statement*-IV (*See* below)

(c) To increase the flow of agricultural credit including crop loans to farmers in North-Eastern States, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has relaxed the operational norms for refinance to co-operative institutions, which, inter-alia, include—

- Waiving the minimum level of recovery by co-operative banks for eligibility for sanction of short-term credit limits by NABARD;
- Reduction of minimum involvement levels of internal lendable resources of co-operative banks from 40% applicable for All-India to 3.5% to 9% for the North-Eastern Region;
- Charging lower rate of interest at 4% from co-operative banks by NABARD for refinance provided to them for crop loans against 6.5% rate of interest for All-India.

Statement-I

State-wise position of advances to agriculture including crop loans issued by all Scheduled Commercial Banks in North-Eastern region during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97

(*Rs. in crores*)

State	March 1995	March 1996	March 1997
Arunachal Pradesh	8.46	9.69	9.33
Assam	215.35	232.00	429.55
Manipur	16.33	15.02	12.25
Meghalaya	13.12	13.24	14.89
Mizoram	3.48	3.79	4.03
Nagaland	31.89	29.72	28.16
Tripura	35.74	38.72	46.91
N-E Region	330.22	347.88	554.31

Statement-II

State-wise position of crop loans disbursed by Co-operative Banks in North-Eastern region during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97.

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	1
Assam	33	26	4
Manipur	—	—	—
Meghalaya	69	78	57
Mizoram	1	1	2
Nagaland	119	114	123
Tripura	66	157	222
N-E Region	288	376	407

Statement-III

State-wise position of crop loans disbursed by regional rural banks in North-Eastern region during the period 1994—97

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Arunachal Pradesh	15.36	22.43	47.67
Assam	30.10	42.16	39.39
Manipur	0.36	0.21	0.19
Meghalaya	41.00	48.30	64.63
Mizoram	12.21	25.31	9.03
Nagaland	0.09	0.00	43.09
Tripura	7.37	8.90	8.72
N-E Region	106.49	147.31	212.52

Statement-IV

State-wise position of agriculture loan overdues of all scheduled commercial banks, cooperatives and regional rural banks overdues in the North-Eastern Region—(As on 31.12.1997)

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Name of the State	Overdues
Arunachal Pradesh	343.16
Assam	6881.03
Manipur	1125.49
Meghalaya	1638.00
Mizoram	678.00
Nagaland	1345.00
Tripura	6246.45
Total	18261.81